

draft
Town of Mansfield Transportation Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting – October 18, 2016, Nash Zimmer Transportation Center

Present: Hultgren (chair), Gupta, Millman, Taylor, Aho, Nowak, Hall, Ryan, Dilaj (Assistant Town Engineer).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The minutes of the April 14, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion by Aho/Taylor with Ryan abstaining.

Dilaj reported that the changes to the Town's sidewalk ordinance were adopted by the Town Council after a public hearing on May 23, 2016. Hultgren said he would send the link to the on-line version of this ordinance to committee members.

Hultgren asked Dilaj for an update on the effort to have Mansfield adopt a complete streets policy. Dilaj explained that the Town was planning to have one or two worksessions early in 2017 with both experts and stakeholders to explore in more detail how a rural community like Mansfield might deal with some of the competing aspects of complete streets, for example – paved and wide shoulders with curbs and conventional gutters vs. grassed swales and other design aspects of Limited Impact Development (LID). Hultgren said that he was hoping to have the Town reapply for the Bicycle Friendly Community designation in the spring, and hoped that the worksessions would not delay the Town's adoption of the policy, which was needed for the BFC application.

When asked the status of the DOT permit to erect share the road signs on the 4 sections of state highways previously approved by the Town, Dilaj said that they had resubmitted the Town's application to the DOT's permit office as the office had apparently lost the original permit application.

Hultgren read van Zelm's brief memo regarding the current parking limits in Storrs Center (parking that had been made 30 minutes was now 1 hour). Taylor updated the committee on his plaza's continuing parking problems indicating at least some progress was being made (LAZ parking is now enforcing the parking restrictions in his plaza).

Dilaj updated committee members on the Town's current transportation-related projects. He said that the Town did receive a grant to finish the sidewalk on Eastwood Road from Hillside Circle to South Eagleville Road, but the path on South Eagleville Road from Maple to Separatist Road was not yet funded. He said that a roadway safety audit was recently conducted for the 4 corners (195/44) for vehicles, bikes and pedestrians and the report would be issued shortly. He further said that the DOT had reduced the nominal lane width on arterial roads (like 195) to 11 ½ feet (note: in other bicycle friendly countries lane widths are down to 10 feet!). Mansfield City road has been rebuilt and paved and Ridge Circle (in the Lynwood subdivision has been milled and repaved. Some crack sealing is underway and next year's road projects are being planned. Hultgren thanked Dilaj and the Town for the sharrows that were recently painted on the Town's bike routes.

There was no new information on the CT Fast-Track bus program to the Mansfield/UConn area – plans are in place but not yet funded by the state.

Hultgren said that the Capital Region's Council of Governments Eastern Greenways study to look at extending the greenway system to UConn using the Route 44 and 195 corridors was in progress, with a draft of the study due out in early 2017. There will also be a DOT sponsored public information meeting

regarding the proposed design for the greenway connection between the Manchester side of Bolton notch and the Bolton side of Bolton notch on November 16th at 7 pm at the Bolton Senior Center.

The committee's meeting dates for 2017 were approved for the 2nd Thursday of the 1st month of each quarter on a motion by Hall/Taylor. The next meeting will therefore be January 12, 2017, followed by meetings on April 13th, July 13th and October 12th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ryan/Millman at approximately 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren, Chair